

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claims 1, 2, and 4-13, said claims having been variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103 based upon U.S. Patent Number 6,383,591 to Miles and Mertens. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As currently amended, Claim 1, the only independent claim in the application, calls for the edges of the plastic strips and the edges of the adhesive elements not to coincide i.e., the edges of the adhesive elements do not come all the way up to the edges of the plastic strips. This is a very important feature in helping to prevent the adhesive elements from causing difficulty in unrolling the roll of the product. This feature is fully shown in Figs. 1-9 of the drawings.

This feature is neither shown nor even suggested in the '591 patent. A careful reading of the '591 patent clearly shows that the adhesive material 26 always has edges which coincide with one or more of the edges of the plastic strip 14 in Fig. 2. This concept is also shown in Figs. 5, 6, 9 and 11. Every aspect of the disclosure in the '591 patent shows the edge of the adhesive material coinciding with an edge of the plastic strip. By way of further example, of which there are many, column 2, lines 64-67 discloses that "a pressure sensitive adhesive extends in a predetermined pattern on only a first adhesive portion of the first surface of the sheet material, adjacent first side edge thereof." On the last line of column 2, there is the language "The sheet material, adjacent its first side edge." Likewise, in column 3, lines 24-27 there is the language, "A vacuum platen having an arcuate circumferential surface as aligned in engagement with at least a portion of the second side of the first cut sheet adjacent the first side edge thereof."

The Examiner's attention is also respectfully directed to column 5, lines 12-15 where similar language is found. In the Abstract, commencing at line 8, there is the language "The

sheeting material has a repositionable pressure sensitive adhesive along one side edge thereof.”

Likewise, Claim 1, the only independent claim in the ‘591 patent, commencing at line 11, there is the following language “a repositionable pressure sensitive adhesive on only a first adhesive portion of the first surface of the linerless sheet material, adjacent to first side edge thereof.”

Further in this regard, the Examiner refers to column 12, lines 16-19 of the ‘591 patent, which reads as follows “The adhesive may be coated as a continuous strip along an edge or be coated in a discontinuous pattern, such as lines of adhesive dots.” The Examiner’s attention is respectfully directed to Figs. 5, 6, and 11 of the ‘591 patent. In those drawing figures, the adhesive is illustrated by a series of discontinuous dots such as the adhesive 26 in Fig. 5, the adhesive 26 in Fig. 6 and the adhesive 261 in Fig. 11. As seen in each of these figures, the discontinuous dots go right up to the edge of the plastic strip, such as the strip 52 in Fig. 6. As is quite clearly shown in Fig. 6, the adhesive dots 26 go right up to the bottom edge (unnumbered) in Fig. 6. The strip 52 is also shown in Fig. 5 of the ‘591 patent showing the discontinuous dots in the adhesive 26 going all the way to the bottom edge of the strip 52.

Perhaps more importantly, it really does not matter where the adhesive dots are placed on the strip 52 because as shown in Fig. 5, the eyemarks 85, which are discussed in length in column 8, lines 4-21, are equally spaced along the length (the longitudinal axis) of the plastic sheet 52. As is clear from column 9, lines 4-7, the sheeting 52 is cut along a line transverse to the direction of its advancement of the sheet into a plurality of sequentially formed, discrete repositionable sheets 14. For the convenience of the Examiner, there is enclosed a copy of Fig. 5 (marked as Exhibit “A”) of the drawing of the ‘591 patent which shows that the sheeting 52 is cut along transverse lines, parallel to the added, dotted line 300, determined by the eyemarks 85.

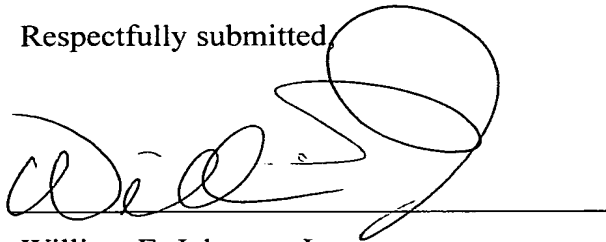
It should be appreciated that regardless of the location of the adhesive dots 26 illustrated in Fig. 5, the nature of the transverse cuts through the adhesive dots 26, whether centered within the strip 52 or moved up to the top edge of the strip 52 or left at the bottom edge of the strip 52 as shown in Fig. 5, the cut along the dotted line 300, being transverse to the longitudinal axis 400 of the strip shown in Fig. 5, will cause the adhesive dots shown in the strip 26 to always be coincident to the cut edge of the underlying plastic strip 52. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to column 9, lines 26-32 of the '591 patent which discloses a need to wipe residual adhesive from the knife blade 104.

There simply is no language disclosing the use of adhesive elements on the plastic sheet of the '591 patent, other than those in which the adhesive coincides with an edge of the sheet. Each of the present claims calls for there to be no coincidence of the edges of the adhesive and the edges of the plastic sheet. This is believed to be a very important feature of the invention because when the adhesive goes all the way to the edge of the sheet, it can sometimes stick to the adjacent layer of the roll.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 2, and 4-13 are patentably distinct from U.S. Patent Number 6,383,591, to Miles et al. It is therefore respectfully submitted that these claims are in prima facie condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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